

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN TOM ZOOK**, on March 31, 2003 at 9:00
A.M., in Room 317 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Tom Zook, Chairman (R)
Sen. Bill Tash, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Keith Bales (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Edward Butcher (R)
Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Royal Johnson (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Emily Stonington (D)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Jon Tester (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion
are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 2, 3/22/2003
Executive Action:

RECONVENE ON HB 2

CHAIRMAN TOM ZOOK advised they would deal with some technical and legal amendments to **HB 2**.

SEN. BOB KEENAN advised the **Department of Public Health and Human Services** is \$28 million below the Governor's budget. **HB 2** is currently \$47 million below the Governor's budget. The projected number to get to the Executive budget with a \$50 million ending fund balance would be \$97.9 million.

SEN. EMILY STONINGTON asked if that takes into account any of the one-time monies.

SEN. KEENAN said it does not. He explained the transmittal date for revenue bills and when **HB 2** might be heard on the floor.

Section A:

Motion: **SEN. LAIBLE** moved HB000209.agd. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a01)

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: **SEN. KEENAN** moved HB000220.alz. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a02)

SEN. KEENAN advised this is a technical amendment that removes non-binding language.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Section B:

Motion: **SEN. KEENAN** moved HB000218.ALS. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a03)

SEN. TRUDY SCHMIDT asked for an explanation of the amendment.

Lois Steinbeck, Legislative Fiscal Division, advised the Subcommittee heard testimony that because of staff shortages in nursing homes, the Montana veteran's homes often had to pay premiums to keep the facilities staffed at capacity. In the last biennium, when they needed more cigarette tax revenue, they weren't able to keep enough staff to keep the facility full to recoup federal and private pay. The subcommittee established a language appropriation of up to \$500,000 for tax revenue over the biennium. Even though they got legal advice on the language, it still wasn't appropriate. It does not change what the subcommittee intended, or the way cigarette tax revenue goes to the facility.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Section C:

Motion: SEN. KEENAN moved HB000212.aty. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a04)

Todd Younkin, Legislative Fiscal Division, advised "Nonfish, Wildlife, and Parks Lands" means non-department lands.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: SEN. KEENAN moved HB000225.agh. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a05)

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: SEN. KEENAN moved HB000224.alt. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a06)

Discussion:

SEN. SCHMIDT asked about MLEA.

Lorene Thorson advised it is the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. The amendment renames a decision package and strikes language. This allows it to be included in the base next biennium.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Section E:

Motion: SEN. JOHNSON moved HB000240.apj. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a07)

SEN. JOHNSON advised the amendment straightens out general fund money in the University System. He read the explanation of the amendment (Exhibit 7).

CHAIRMAN ZOOK advised it requires a statutory change they will have to deal with in a committee bill.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: SEN. JOHNSON moved HB000241.apj. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a08)

SEN. JOHNSON explained the amendment has to do with \$49,000 allocated two years ago to the Fire Training School for equipment. They are being asked to move from the building they're in, and want to use the appropriation of \$49,000 in the next biennium for moving expenses.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: SEN. KEENAN moved HB000221.alz. **EXHIBIT**(fcs68a09)

Taryn Purdy, Legislative Fiscal Division, explained the amendment takes out legislative contract authority.

CHAIRMAN ZOOK advised it puts consistency into the process.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS

Recess: 9:30 A.M.

SEN. TOM ZOOK, Chairman

PRUDENCE GILDROY, Secretary

TZ/PG

EXHIBIT (fcs68aad)